

Cambridge, Mass. Dec. 27, 1853.

Charles Deane, Esq.

Dear Sir:

Your books are safe, and moreover have not been marked & put upon the shelves of the College Library, nor in any other way appropriated to our use & behoof. They came last summer, say in July or August (I am writing at home, & cannot now refer to the exact date), in a parcel, forwarded from New York by Dr. J. G. Cogswell. The parcel contained several other works for the Library, presents from the Royal Society, &c., &c., but without any instructions from Mr. Stevens, or any note of the destination of the two volumes which you now reclaim. Immediately on receiving them, I wrote to Dr. Cogswell informing him of the receipt of the parcel, and enquiring if he knew for whom the two books in question were intended. He replied that he did not know, and that he had not received any instructions concerning them. I then wrote to Hon. A. Lawrence about them, thinking that perhaps he, his lady, or his son might have ordered the books. Mr. Lawrence replied that the books

did not belong to any of his family. Knowing not whom to ask about the ownership, & expecting by every steamer that Stevens would write to me on the subject, I have kept the books at hand, wrapped in a cloth, have shewn them to several persons with the hope of finding the owner, & now only wait a safe & good opportunity to restore them to you. They are rather too heavy for Emma.

Mr. Stevens is much to blame for his very careless way of doing business, & I hope you will not let him off without a good scolding. You have paid dear enough for them, without the disappointment of so long waiting for your books, & without the trouble of having to write some two or more letters of enquiry; but altogether too dear, when these other annoyances are taken into account.

Yours truly,
Thaddeus William Harris.

